

10/713,291

Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 10-12 are allowed. Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intermediate claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 13 to include all of the limitations of original claims 1-4. Similarly, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 14 to include all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 7.

In the Office Action mailed on August 20, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skanborg et al. (U.S. 6,206, 420), and rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skanborg et al. '420 in view of Goetz (U.S. 5, 700, 030).

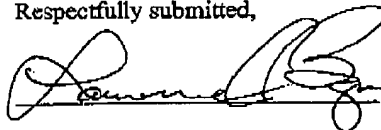
Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited references.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 have been amended so as to be consistent with amended claim 1.

Applicant has calculated a fee of \$400.00 for submission of new claims 13 and 14. Accordingly, enclosed herewith is our credit card authorization sheet authorizing a payment of this amount via credit card. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies to Account No. 50-3238. The Examiner's call to the undersigned is requested if it will assist in eliminating any remaining issues.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections of record have been overcome. The Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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